

would hunt 7 more days each year if hunting on Sunday was legal. In addition, hunters currently average 2.2 overnight trips for hunting each year. They indicated they would take an average of 1.9 more overnight hunting trips if hunting on Sunday was legal. Twenty percent of hunters hunted outside of North Carolina (hunters in the mountain region were most likely to hunt out of state, hunters in the coastal region were least likely to hunt out of state). Of those who hunted outside of North Carolina, 29% said the ability to hunt on Sunday was very important in their decision to leave the state. Sixteen percent of hunters who hunted outside of North Carolina said they were likely to take fewer out of state trips if hunting on Sunday was legal in North Carolina.

Hunters spent an estimated \$484 million in North Carolina in 2005, creating a ripple effect that generated \$946 million in total economic activity. Responses to the telephone and mail surveys suggested that hunting participation could increase by 1.9 million days (28%) if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The economic impact of increased hunting participation would rise by an estimated 17% in the first year following legalization of hunting on Sunday, 22% in the second year and level off at 28% in the third year.

The Wildlife Resources Commission generated \$7,606,848 in revenue from the sale of hunting licenses and permits in 2006. The agency also received \$4,160,586 in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds (federal funds that are based 50% on the size of the state compared to the rest of the states and 50% on the number of licenses sold compared to all licenses sold nation wide). Although it is not possible to determine with certainty how many more licenses the Wildlife Resources Commission might sell if hunting on Sunday was legalized, we can project the financial impact of various license sale scenarios. The combined effect of revenue from increased license sales and the associated increase in Federal Aid funds is \$102,119 for a one percent increase in sales, \$510,416 for a 5% increase and \$2,039,008 for a 20% increase.

Personnel of the Wildlife Resources Commission estimated that at least 36 new game wardens would be needed state wide to maintain current levels of enforcement if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The estimated first year cost of hiring, training, equipping and supporting the operations of a new warden is \$99,657. That cost drops to \$52,457 in the second year, for a two-year total of \$152,114 per warden (\$5,476,104 for 36 wardens). If license sales increased by 20% as a result of legalization of hunting on Sunday (an unlikely scenario), the additional revenue and Federal Assistance funding would still be \$1,398,088 short of covering the cost of the new officers. However, the Wildlife Resources Commission would also have the option of redirecting the effort of existing officers, paying overtime to existing officers, or hiring fewer new wardens to provide additional enforcement capability in specific areas or to relieve other officers as needed.

Over 10,000 comments on Sunday hunting were posted on the World Wide Web site of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Fifty-five percent of those comments were in support of legalizing hunting on Sunday, while 43% were in opposition. Other avenues of input to the process of evaluating the Sunday hunting issue included 12 public meetings (9 meetings conducted throughout the state by the Wildlife Resources Commission and one conducted in each region of the state by the research team), 6 focus groups with hunters (2 in each region of the state) and 6 focus groups with North Carolina citizens (1 with identified stakeholders in each region of the state and 1 with a random sample of citizens in each region of the state).